

Via Facsimile: (703) 872-9327

9D-DW-19324-CIP
PATENT

IN THE CLAIMS

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1. (currently amended) A door latch assembly for a door including a door retainer projection and a rounded hooded portion, said door latch assembly comprising:

a handle pivotally mounted to the door ~~for rotation~~ beneath the rounded hooded portion,
said handle configure to rotate about a first ~~end~~ longitudinal axis;

a latch actuator rotationally coupled to said handle and pivotally coupled to the door ~~for rotation~~ said latch actuator configured to rotate about a second ~~end~~ longitudinal axis, said handle rotating in a first direction when actuated and said latch actuator rotating in a second direction opposite the first direction; and

a resilient keeper engaged to the door retainer projection in a closed position, said latch actuator configured to disengage said keeper from the door retainer projection when said handle is actuated.

2. (previously presented) A latch assembly in accordance with Claim 1, said handle comprising an actuator portion in sliding engagement with said latch actuator.

3. (previously presented) A latch assembly in accordance with Claim 1, said handle further comprising a closed handle stop.

4. (previously presented) A latch assembly in accordance with Claim 1, said handle comprising a pin and a longitudinal axis, said latch actuator comprising a pin and a longitudinal axis, said handle longitudinal axis displaced from said latch actuator longitudinal axis.

5. (previously presented) A latch assembly in accordance with Claim 1 further comprising a bracket, said handle and said latch actuator mounted to said bracket.

6. (currently amended) A dishwasher door latch assembly ~~for a dishwasher~~ comprising:

a door comprising a door retainer projection and a rounded hooded portion;

a resilient keeper coupled to the dishwasher;

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D/ a latch handle pivotally mounted to said door beneath said rounded hooded portion, said latch handle configured to rotate about a first longitudinal axis; and

a latch actuator pivotally mounted to said door, said latch actuator configure to rotate about a second longitudinal axis, said latch handle and said latch actuator rotationally coupled, said latch handle pivoting in one direction, said latch actuator pivoting in another direction, said handle selectively positionable between an open position and a closed position to couple said door to the appliance via said door retainer projection-dishwasher, said latch actuator disengaging said resilient keeper from said door retainer projection as said latch handle is rotated.

7. (currently amended) A door latch assembly in accordance with Claim 6 wherein the dishwasher further includes a tub assembly, ~~said latch assembly further comprising a keeper attached to the door assembly for engaging said door retainer projection.~~

8. (currently amended) A door latch assembly in accordance with Claim 7 6 wherein said latch actuator keeper comprises a keeper engagement surface, said keeper engagement surface disengaging said keeper from door retaining projection as said latch handle is rotated..

9. (original) A door latch assembly in accordance with Claim 6 further comprising a bracket mounted to said door, said latch handle and said latch actuator hingedly attached to said bracket.

10. (original) A latch assembly in accordance with Claim 6, said latch handle comprising a rounded engagement portion in contact with said latch actuator.

11. (previously presented) A dishwasher comprising:

a tub assembly comprising a resilient keeper attached thereto;

a door assembly comprising a door retainer projection for engagement with said keeper;

a latch handle pivotally coupled to said door assembly for rotation about a first longitudinal axis; and

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D/ a latch actuator pivotally coupled to said door assembly for rotation about a second longitudinal axis, said latch handle and said latch actuator rotationally coupled to one another, said latch actuator disengaging said keeper from said door retainer projection as said handle is rotated.

12. (original) A dishwasher in accordance with Claim 11, said handle comprising an actuator portion in contact with said latch actuator.

13. (original) A dishwasher in accordance with Claim 11 further comprising a bracket, said latch handle and said latch actuator coupled to said bracket.

14. (original) A dishwasher in accordance with Claim 11 wherein said latch actuator comprises a substantially flat plate.

15. (original) A dishwasher in accordance with Claim 11, said latch handle comprising a closed handle stop.

16. (currently amended) A dishwasher door assembly ~~for a dishwasher~~, said door assembly comprising:

an escutcheon comprising a latch portion and a rounded hooded portion;

a latch handle pivotally mounted to said escutcheon beneath said rounded hooded portion about a first longitudinal axis; and

a latch actuator pivotally mounted to said escutcheon about a second longitudinal axis, said latch handle contacting said latch actuator when rotated about said first longitudinal axis in a first direction and causing said latch actuator to rotate about said second longitudinal axis in a second direction opposite said first direction.

17. (previously presented) A door assembly in accordance with Claim 16, said latch handle comprising a closed handle stop portion contacting said latch portion in a closed position.

18. (original) A door assembly in accordance with Claim 16, said latch actuator comprising a substantially flat plate.

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D/ 19. (previously presented) A dishwasher comprising:

- a tub assembly comprising a resilient keeper attached thereto;
- a door assembly comprising a bracket and a door retainer projection for engaging said keeper;
- a latch handle hingedly coupled to said bracket, said latch handle selectively positionable about a first longitudinal axis; and
- a latch actuator hingedly coupled to said bracket and rotatable about a second longitudinal axis, said latch actuator in contact with said latch handle, a position of said latch actuator determined by a position of said latch handle, said latch handle positionable to disengage said keeper from said door retainer projection with said latch actuator.